Survey123 for ArcGIS

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Form app comparison

Esri has a number of apps you can use to collect data in the field. They all offer a form to fill in and all connect to ArcGIS.

The following table shows a comparison of functionality among Survey123 for ArcGIS, Collector for ArcGIS, and GeoForm.

Functionality	Survey123	Collector	GeoForm
Data collection style	Formcentric	Mapcentric	Formcentric
Supports capture of new data	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports editing existing data	No	Yes	No
Smart forms	Yes (XLSForm)	No	No
Works offline	Yes	Yes	No
Supports anonymous access	No	No	Yes
Platforms	iOS, Android, Windows, Windows Phone, Mac, Linux	iOS, Android, Windows	Web
Technical Support	Esri and the community	Esri and the community	Esri and the community

The following expands on some of the key concepts described in this table.

Formcentric data collection

Survey123 and GeoForm are formcentric data collection apps. The focus is a list of questions—that is, the form. With Survey123 and GeoForm, you can capture geographic information (points), but geo is just another question in the questionnaire, not the focus. That's why they're called form-centric. Collector for ArcGIS is a mapcentric app: it opens maps that you can use to capture information.

Smart forms

Survey123 uses the xForms specification to bring forms to life. Collector for ArcGISand GeoForm allow you to edit attributes, but the rules you can apply to a form are clear (choice lists and basic question types). Skipping questions, applying expressions to precalculate and validate responses, presenting the form in different languages, capturing signatures, and much more, are some of the unique smart-form features in Survey123.

Anonymous access

Survey123 and Collector use your ArcGIS identity (organizational account) to secure access to your data and provide a tailored experience. GeoForm, on the other hand, can be accessed anonymously. With GeoForm, the form will look the same to everyone and unsecured data can be edited by anyone. Through the use of ArcGIS organizational accounts, both Collector and Survey123 allow you access to only the data you've been granted permissions to edit. Also, because of the use of ArcGIS credentials, the ArcGIS administrator and others with particular permissions can track exactly who is capturing what data.

https://doc.arcgis.com/en/survey123/desktop/create-surveys/formappcomparision.htm